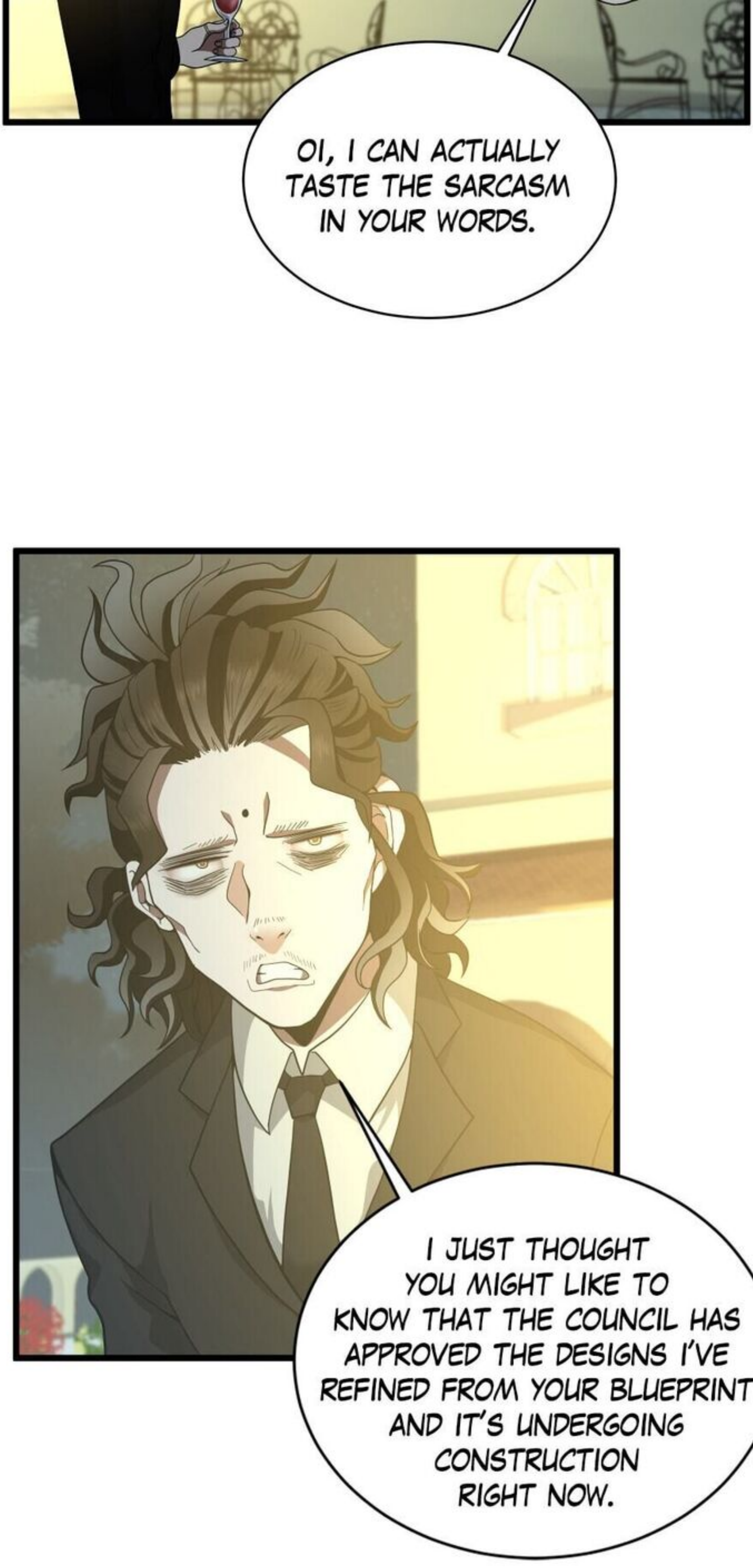
ARE YOU PERFORMING IN A ONE-MAN PLAY OR SOMETHING?

I HOPE YOU DIDN'T INTRUDE ON MY SISTER'S PARTY JUST TO SPEAK WITH ME.

HEY!
I BROUGHT HER A GIFT AS WELL!

FINE. TO WHAT PLEASURE DO I OWE A VISIT FROM THE NUMBER ONE ARTIFICER OF DICATHEN?


OI, I CAN ACTUALLY TASTE THE SARCASM IN YOUR WORDS.
I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW THAT THE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE DESIGNS I'VE REFINED FROM YOUR BLUEPRINT AND IT'S UNDERGOING CONSTRUCTION RIGHT NOW.

THE COUNCIL
WAS WHAT THE KINGS AND QUEENS
OF DICATHEN NOW REFERRED TO
THEMSELVES AS,

ABANDONING
THE MONARCHY THEY
POSSESSED OVER THE

THREE KINGDOMS.

CONGRATULATIONS.
I'M SURE YOU WERE
REWARDED HANDSOMELY
FOR THAT.

MONEY?
FAME? POWER?
IT'S A MEANS
TO AN END.

WHAT I WANT
IS SOMETHING EVEN
THE COUNCIL
CAN'T--

POKE

E-EXCUSE ME.

MASTER GIDEON,
I AM A HUGE FAN
OF YOUR WORK.

YES!
WE'VE HEARD
ABOUT THE ENORMOUS
SHIP YOU'VE
DESIGNED.

YES, YES.
I'M QUITE BUSY
AT THE MOMENT
BUT--

DON'T YOU DARE
GO ANYWHERE, ARTHUR!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

IS IT TRUE THAT THE SHIP WILL NOT BE RUNNING ON MANA AT ALL?
HOW DID YOU THINK TO USE CONFLAGURITE ORES AS A POWERING COMPONENT?
FAME ISN'T ONLY A MEANS TO AN END. IT ALSO COMES AT A COST.

LOOKS LIKE THE GUESTS ARE SLOWLY LEAVING.

ARTHUR!

I'M SO... SORRY
I COULDN'T GREET YOU
SOONER!
HUFF

#OPT

I GOT TO THE PARTY LATE AND WANTED TO... CONGRATULATE ELLIE FIRST.

IT'S OKAY!

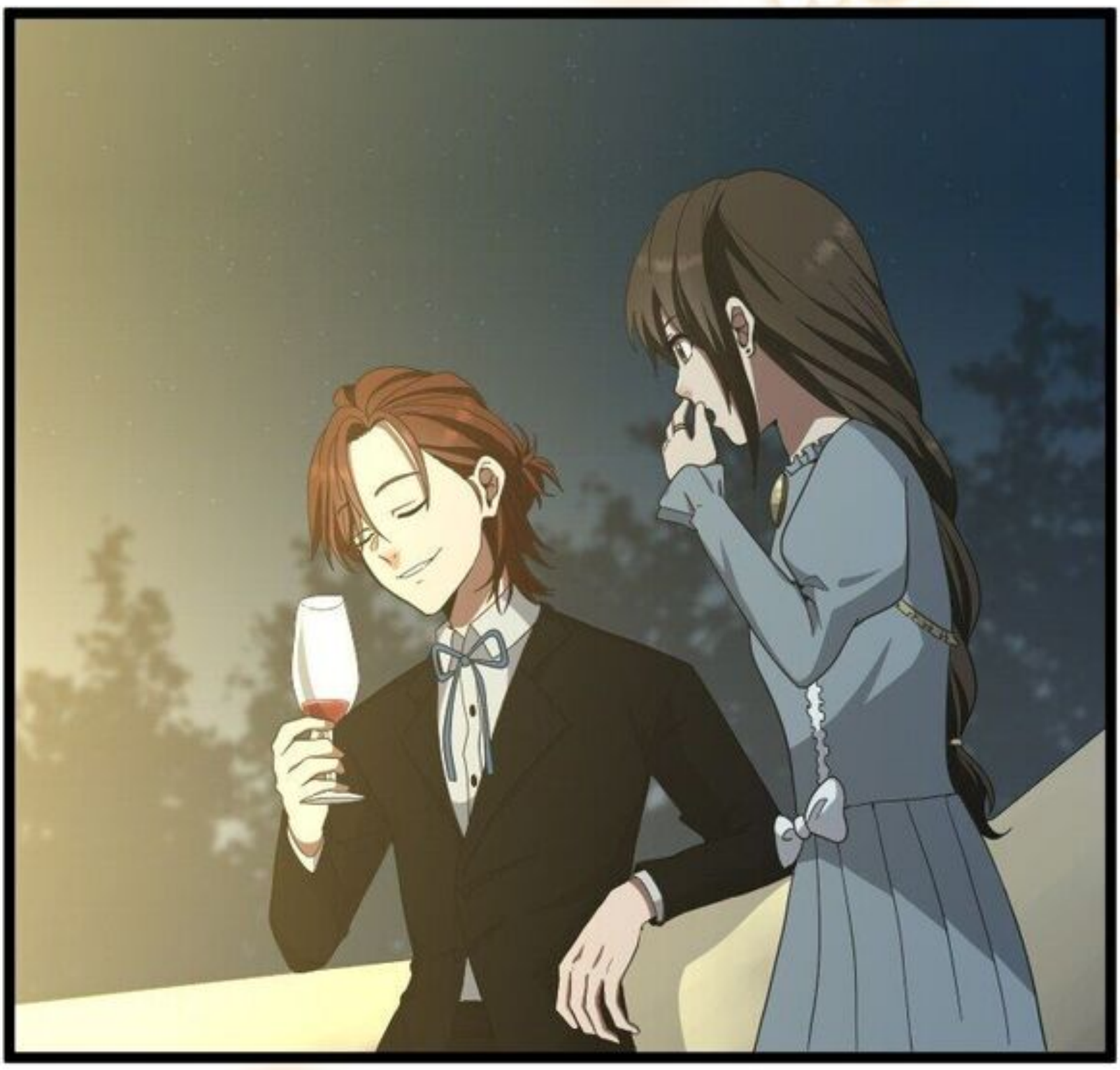
YOUR PARENTS HAVE BEEN BRAGGING TO ME ABOUT HOW BUSY YOU'VE BEEN AS THE SECRETARY OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

PUTTING THAT ASIDE THOUGH...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE,
LILIA.

Y-YEAH...
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE.

HAS HE ALWAYS BEEN THIS MUCH TALLER THAN ME?



IT SEEMS LIKE THE LITTLE GIRL WHO USED TO HIDE FROM HER PARENTS AND EAT WITH THE MAIDS AND BUTLERS HAS ALL GROWN UP NOW.

I SHOWED YOU MY PRECIOUS HIDEOUT AND YOU'RE STILL MAKING FUN OF ME FOR THAT?

IT'S HARD NOT TO POINT OUT HOW AFTER STRESSING OUT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE,

YOU'RE NOW DOING SO WELL IN THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS MAGE ACADEMY IN DICATHEN.

AND FROM THE NUMBER OF BOYS THAT HAVE GIVEN YOU SOULFUL STARES OVER THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION,

YOU MUST BE PRETTY POPULAR AS WELL.

WH-WHAT?!

THAT'S...
I DON'T EVEN HAVE
A BOYFRIEND OR
ANYTHING.

BESIDES,
EVERYTHING THAT'S
CHANGED IN MY LIFE
IS THANKS TO YOU.

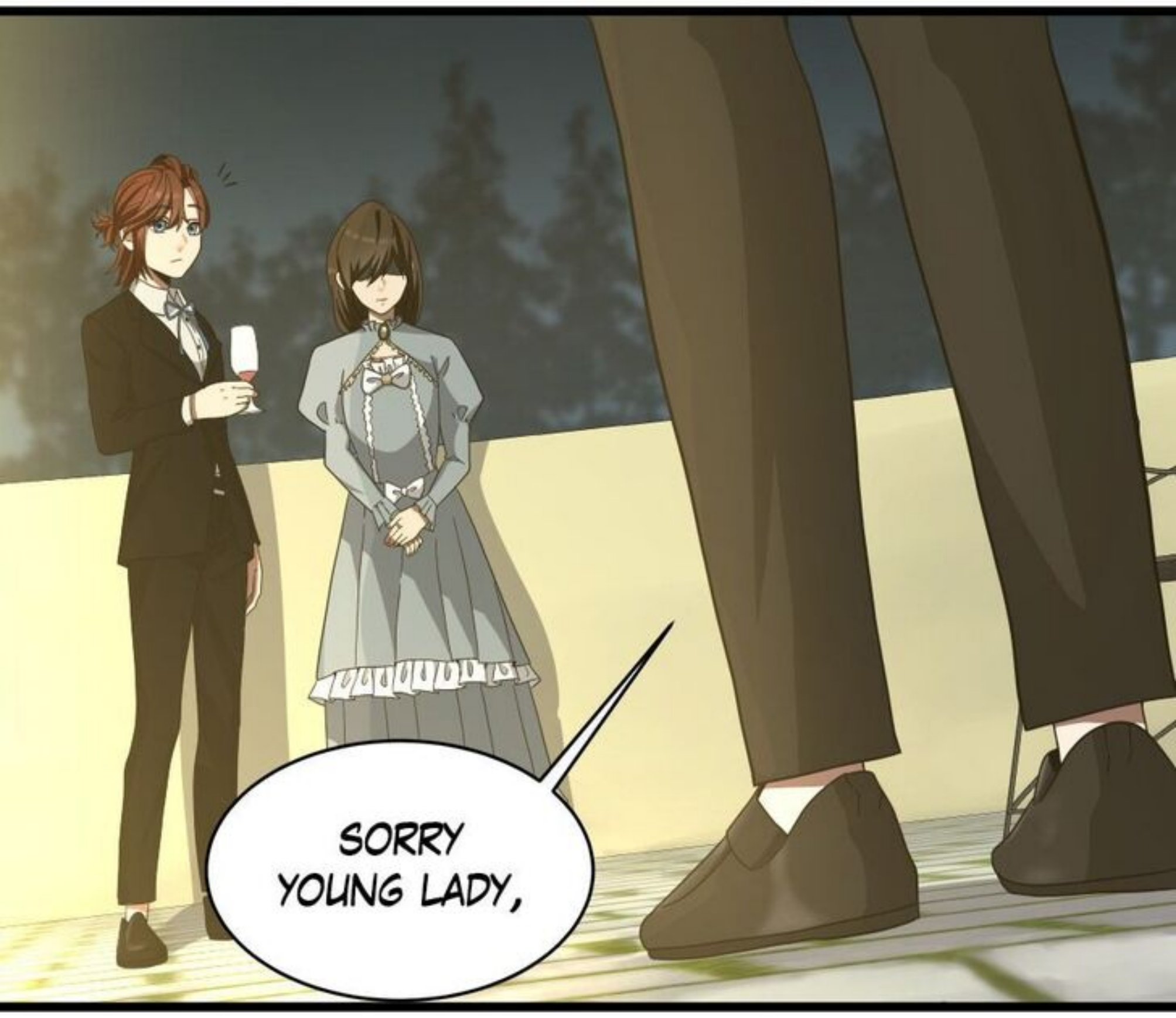
IF THAT'S THE CASE...

THEN I'D BETTER APPROVE OF WHICHEVER BOY YOU BRING HOME!
I WON'T BE ANY EASIER TO PLEASE

THAN UNCLE VINCENT!

OH...
S-SURE.

AHEM!


SORRY
YOUNG LADY,

M-MASTER

GIDEON!

OF COURSE!

I'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN, ART.

SEE? I TOLD YOU EVERYONE KNOWS ME.

HUMBLE YOURSELF.

YOU'RE PRETTY POPULAR WITH THE LADIES THOUGH.

THAT GIRL JUST NOW SEEMED TO HAVE A CRUSH ON YOU.

I KNOW.

YOU TWO SEEM TO GET ALONG.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

SHE'S SOMEONE
WHOSE LIFE HAS BEEN
CHANGED BY ME.

HER FEELINGS
TOWARD ME AREN'T
LIKE OR LOVE,

BUT SOMETHING MORE AKIN TO GRATITUDE.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT NOW,

BUT IN THE FUTURE
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE ABLE
TO DISTINGUISH

THAT WHAT
SHE'S FEELING NOW
IS AN INFATUATION THAT
A DAMSEL MIGHT HAVE
TOWARD A HERO.

YOUR MATURITY
IN THESE SORTS
OF SITUATIONS
IS NAUSEATING.

REGARDLESS,
I'M SURE YOU'RE
NOT HERE TO GIVE ME
LOVE ADVICE.

WHAT ELSE
DID YOU WANT
TO DISCUSS?

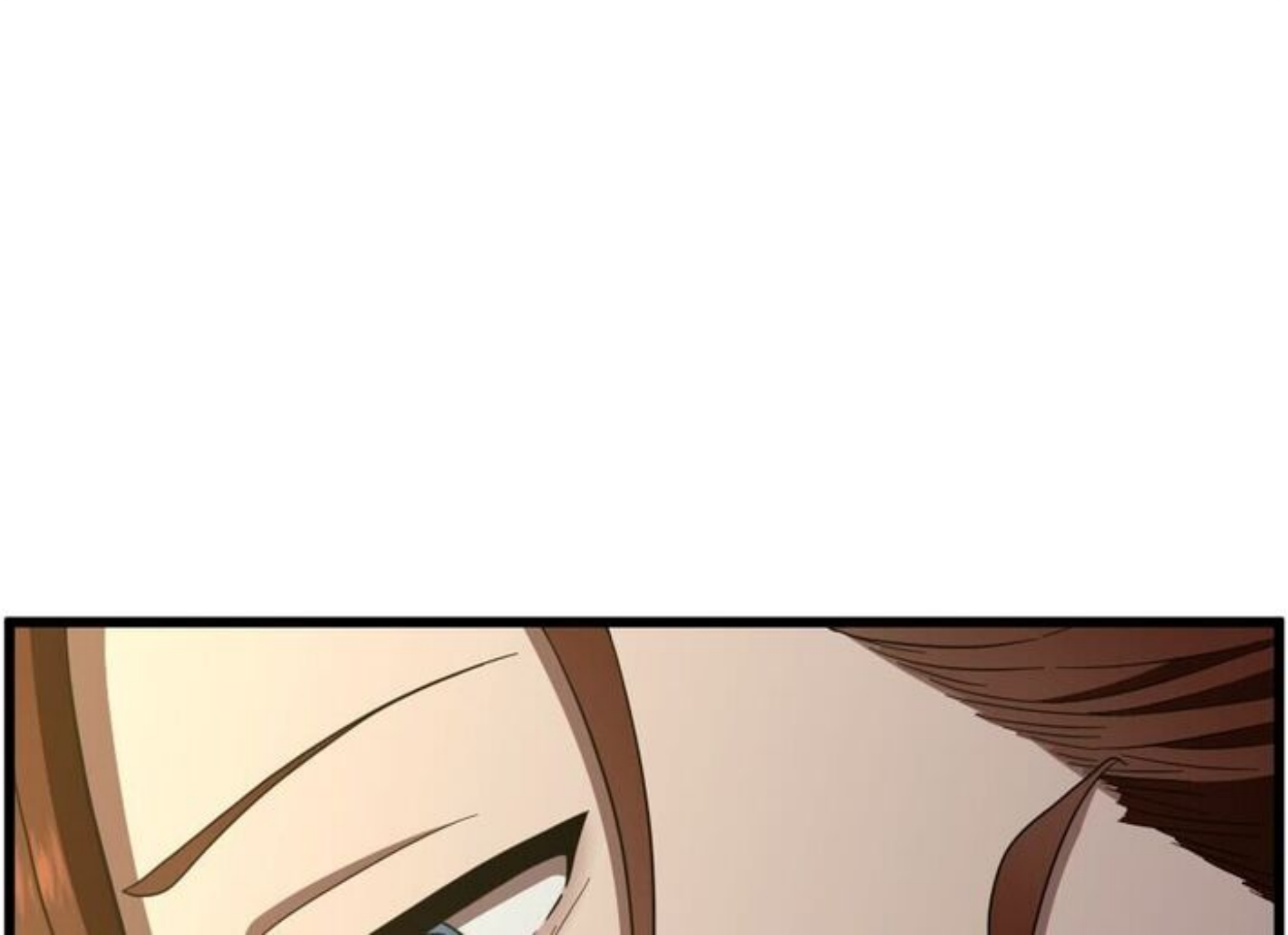
CHEEKY BRAT

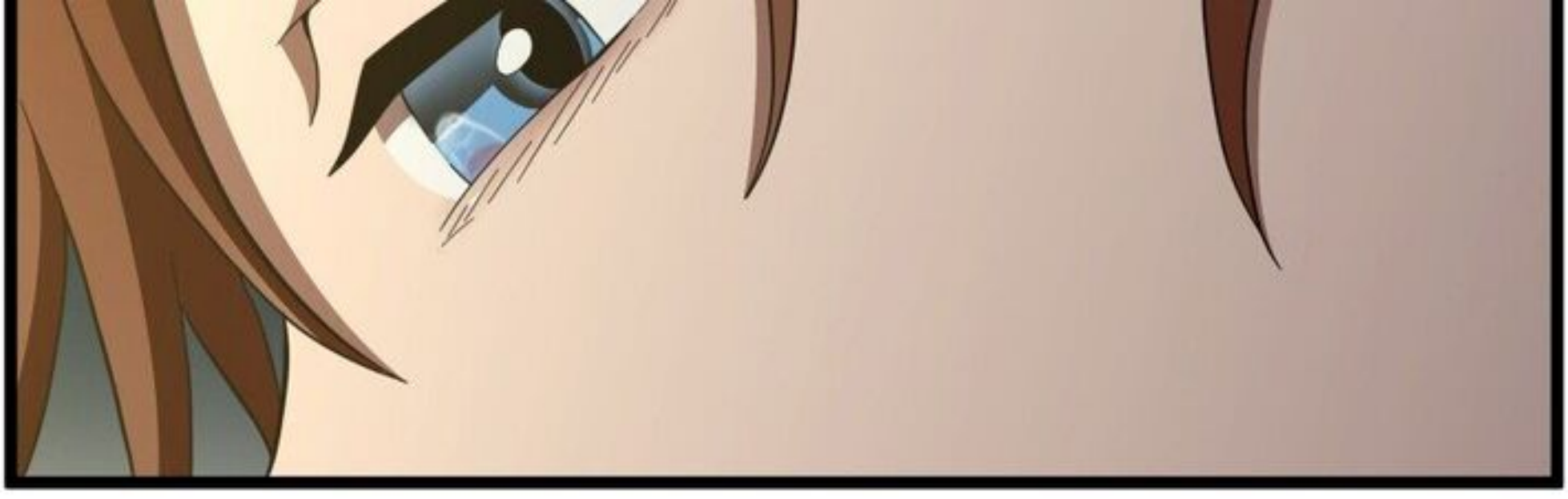
YES, AS I WAS ABOUT TO SAY EARLIER...

I WANT TO USE THE MONEY, FAME, AND POWER THAT THE COUNCIL HAS BESTOWED UPON ME

TO GET SOMETHING I CAN'T GET ELSEWHERE.

YOUR KNOWLEDGE.





I'VE ALREADY HAD SOME SECOND THOUGHTS AFTER GIVING YOU THE BLUEPRINTS FOR THE STEAM ENGINE.

I DON'T WANT
TO CHANGE HOW
THE WORLD WORKS
ANY MORE THAN
I ALREADY HAVE.

THIS CONTINENT IS DOING JUST FINE WITHOUT MY INTERVENTION.

SO YOU DO HAVE MORE IDEAS FOR INVENTIONS CAPABLE OF CHANGING THE WORLD!

HIS EARS ONLY
PICK UP THE
THINGS HE WANTS
TO HEAR.

MR. GIDEON.

LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I'M NOT HERE TO INDULGE YOUR SELFISH CURIOSITIES.

WELL THAT SOBERED THE HELL OUT OF ME.
GOT IT.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, HOW ABOUT A GIVE AND TAKE?

I'M NOT ASKING FOR WORLD-CHANGING INVENTIONS, BUT MAYBE JUST LETTING ME PICK YOUR BRAIN FROM TIME TO TIME.

IN RETURN, I'LL BE YOUR PERSONAL BENEFACTOR FOR WHATEVER SORT OF ARTIFACTS OR GOODS YOU NEED.

HOW ABOUT IT?

DO WE HAVE A DEAL?

DEAL.

THE BEGINNING AFTER THE END

END

STORY BY
TURTLEME

ART BY
FUYUKI23

PRESENTED BY
TAPAS MEDIA

QUALITY CONTROL BY
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

MAIN ASSISTANTS/ALKALENZ
STORYBOARD ASSISTANT/PUTRI
COLORING ASSISTANTS/CHIBONIIE & YUEJI
LINING ASSISTANT/MIKAGE

PROJECT MANAGER
SERA SWATI

EDITORS
GABRIELLE LUU & AKY

...ANOTHER DRESS?

OH?
THIS ONE LOOKS A BIT DIFFERENT.
BRING IT
BRING IT!

WHO'S IT FROM?

I'M NOT SURE. THERE'S A LETTER HERE THOUGH.

Dear Eleanor,

I'm sure you're sick of the countless dresses and tea sets by now.

This present of mine is in the hopes that you no longer continue to just look up to your brother, but make strides in catching up to him.

May you become someone strong and capable of standing by his side.

GASP

WOAAAH!
IT'S A BOW!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BOW!

THE DESIGN LOOKS ELVEN!

I WONDER WHO SENT IT?

COULD IT BE...?

AHEM

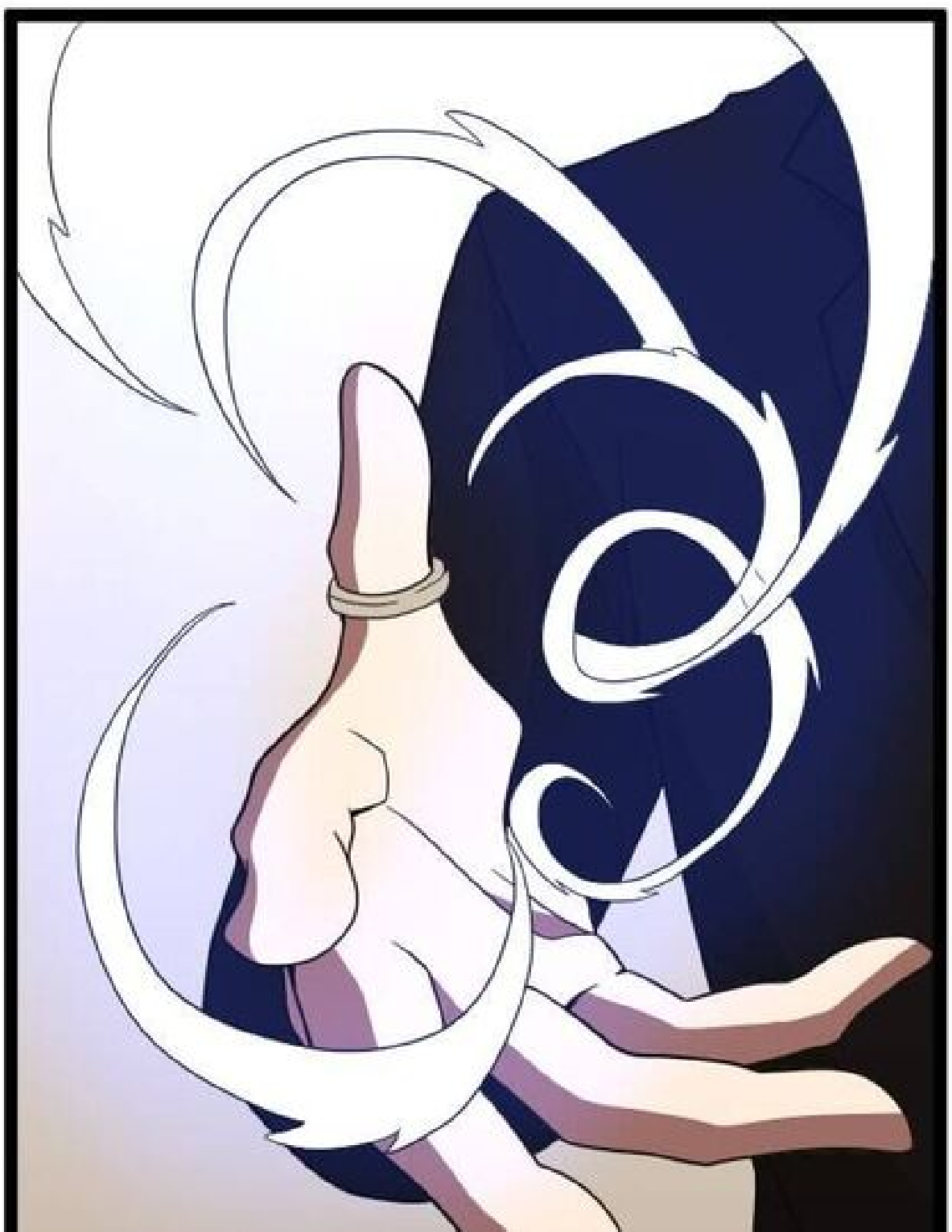
PRESENT PLEASE,
DEAREST BROTHER!

YOU'RE BEING IMPOLITE, ELEANOR.

TEHEE~

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'TEHEE'?

HA
HA
HA



WOAAH!
WHAT IS IT?

OH?
THIS IS
FOR ME?

A NECKLACE!

THESE WILL PROTECT YOU IN CASE DAD OR I AREN'T THERE.

THEY'RE GORGEOUS! WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?

HATE TO BREAK
IT TO YOU, HONEY, BUT
THESE TWO PENDANTS ARE
THE ONLY ONES IN
EXISTENCE.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
SISTER.

MWAHAHAHA
that old geezer ...

KEEP UP WITH US CREATORS ON INSTAGRAM!

@turtleme93

@fuyuki23

DO NOT REPOST

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS SERIES AND WANT A FASTER RELEASE

PLEASE READ ON BATO.TO

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